

May God Bestow on Us His Grace

Es wollt uns Gott genädig sein

8.7. 8.7. 8.7. 8.7. 7.

Es wollt uns Gott genädig sein

Martin Luther, 1523

Der Lxvj. Deus Misereatur, Magdeburg, 1524

Tr. Richard Massie, 1851, alt.

Arr. Mehrstimmiges Choralbuch, 1906, alt.

May God be-stow on us His grace, With bless-ings rich pro-
And may the bright-ness of His face To life e - ter-nal

vide us,
guide us, That we His sav - ing health may know,

His gra - cious will and plea - sure, And al - so to the hea - then show

Christ's rich - es with - out mea - sure And un - to God con - vert them.

- 2 Thine over all shall be the praise
And thanks of ev'ry nation,
And all the world with joy shall raise
The voice of exultation;
For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,
Nor suffer sin to flourish;
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word
Their souls to feed and nourish,
In righteous paths to keep them.
- 3 Oh, let the people praise Thy worth,
In all good works increasing;
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,
Thy Word is rich in blessing.
May God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit bless us!
Let all the world praise Him alone,
Let solemn awe possess us.
Now let our hearts say, Amen.

“May God Bestow on Us His Grace (*Es wollt uns Gott genädig sein*)” was written by Martin Luther in 1523 as a metrical setting of Psalm 67, known at that time by the Latin first line, *Deus misereatur nostri*. Luther’s hymn was intended as a closing benediction in the vernacular for his Latin order of service, the *Formula Missae*, and was included as such in Paul Speratus’s German translation of the same, *Eyn weyse Christlich Mess zu halten*, Wittenberg, 1524. In later hymn collections it was included among other metrical Psalm settings, such as “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*).”

When Johann Walter included “May God Bestow on Us His Grace” in his 1524 polyphonic hymn collection, the Wittenberg *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, the tune was that which would later come to be associated with Luther’s Catechism hymn on Holy Baptism, “Christ Our Lord to the Jordan Came (*Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam*).” The first appearance of “May God Bestow on Us His Grace” with what would become its proper tune was in the form of a broadsheet issued 1524 in Magdeburg by Hans Knappe the Younger. There it was titled “The 66th [Psalm], *Deus misereatur*,” using the Psalm numbering of the Vulgate, which had yet to be supplanted among the Reformers by the Hebrew Psalter.

The translation is by Richard Massie, *Martin Luther’s Spiritual Songs*, 1851, pp. 45–46, as slightly altered in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, No. 500, to reflect more closely the text of Psalm 67 according to the King James Version. The musical setting is a slightly altered version of that found in the *Mehrstimmiges Choralbuch*, St. Louis, 1906, which passed with only slight modifications into *The Lutheran Hymnal*. The text and music here provided are in the public domain and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever. They are offered with the prayer that they may serve for the edification of Christian people everywhere. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

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presents

May God Bestow on Us His Grace

by

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and translated from the German by

Richard Massie

published in

Davenport, Iowa

2015